

VERNACULAR VERSUS LATIN NAMES IN THE BEES.

(Hymenoptera: Sphecoidea).

BY V. S. L. PATE, Ithaca, New York.

The late Miss Sandhouse in her invaluable catalogue of the generic and subgeneric names of the bees¹ gives *Lithurge* as the correct orthography for the genus customarily known as *Lithurgus*. Dr. C. D. Michener in his excellent treatise on the classification of the bees² also uses the spelling *Lithurge*. However, anyone familiar with the work of Latreille knows he was greatly addicted to the use of vernacular names. And according to Opinion 48 of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, vernacular names are to be considered *nomina nuda*: they are not entitled to citation from the dates in question.

In his 1825 work *Familles naturelles du Règne Animal*, Latreille, in almost all cases, employed a vernacular name for the genera. This work consequently has little or no nomenclatorial status. Thus the generic names *Lithurge*, *Ancyloscèle*, *Melissode*, *Oedipode* and *Podisme*, proposed by Latreille in 1825 in this publication, have no nomenclatorial status until they appear in the proper Latin form. In 1827 Berthold published a German edition of Latreille's work under the title *Natürliche Familien des Thierreichs aus dem Französischen mit Ummerkungen und Zusätzen*: this translation into German is very close to the French original except that Latreille's vernacular names *Lithurge*, *Melissode*, *Ancyloscèle*, *Oedipode*, *Podisme* and so on were latinized as *Lithurgus*, *Melissodes*, *Ancyloscelis*, *Oedipus* and *Podisma*. And under our present system of nomenclature, it is Berthold's latinized forms of Latreille's vernacular names which must be used, always provided of course that they are not, like *Melissodes*, *Melitoma*, *Ancyloscelis* and others, still *nomina nuda* as of that date.

In a few cases like the Psammocharid genus *Planiceps*, the vernacular name of Latreille coincides with the Latinized version of Berthold and Lepeletier and Serville. In such instances, I believe the names may be considered valid as of 1825 and accredited to Latreille.

¹ Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., XCII, pp. 519-619, (1943).

² Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist., LXXXII, pp. 151-326, (1944).